(b) What are the details of the various activities proposed to be undertaken in respect of the said Festival of India and how far its scope will be different from the Festival of India organised in the USA and France; and

(c) what measures Government proposes to take for the salection of right type of artistes to participate during the Festival of India in the Soviet Union and the selection of the art objects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) The cost of the Festival of India in Soviet Union is estimated at Rs. 16 crores.

(b) The activities will cover folk and classical performed arts, exhibitions, seminars, film festivals, food festivals, youth and sports programmes in all the 15 Republics of USSR thus making the scope and spread of this festival wiver than the Festival of India held in USA and France.

(c) To ensure selection of right kind of performing artistes separate jurists selection committees have been formed under the Indain Council for Cultural Relations, whose decisions are then placed before the Standing Committee of the ICCR headed by the Vice-President of India.

Selection of art objects is done by the National Museum on the advice of the Conservation Committee and Expert Evaluation Committee.

Railways computerisation network

*33. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a sharp escalation in estimated cost of the railways computerisation network; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The revised cost of Freight OIS Project has not yet been finalised, as it has a close link with the type of telecommunications network technology to be selected, a decision on which is yet to be taken.

Electrification of Madras-Jolarpettai rail track

*34. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

SHRI K. GOPALAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether electrification of Madras-Jolarpettai rail track has been completed, if not., by when it is likely to be completed;

(b) what is the length of the track between Erode and Jolarpettai and what is the estimated cost of electrification of the track;

(c) what is the number of casual labourers who are presently employed in Madras-Jolarpettai electrification work; and

(d) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to absorb them in any other work in Southern Railway, instead of retrenching these experienced workers, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Electrification of Madras-Jolarpettai Section has been commissioned.

(b) Jolarpettai-Erode Section is 180 Kms in length. Electrification of the Section is estimated to cost Rs. 41.78 crores.

(c) 459 for residual works of electrification of Arakkonam-Jollarpettai section (Madras-Jollarpettai section).

(d) As the work-load reduces, the surplus casual labour may have to be retrenched from this work.

Subsequent engagement of casual labour retrenched from this project, will be done as per railway's needs for other works.

Pre-flight check of Indian Airlines and Air India crew

*35. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any guidelines on pre-flight check of the crew of the Indian Airlines and Air India;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration for installing sophisticated electronic breath analysers; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Airlines are required to ensure that none of the crew members has taken any alcohol within 12 hours of the commencement of the flight and no detectable alcohol level should be present in the blood when the crew reports for flight duties.

(c) and (d) Air India has got electronic instrument for breath analysis. Indian Airlines is considering acquiring electronic instrument for the same purpose.

Child deaths due to malnutrition

*36. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of children who die every year in India because of malnutrition; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Malnutrition alone can rarely cause death. It however pre-disposes the affected person to infective and opportunistic ailments by lowering the immunity which may lead to death. Hence it is difficult to estimate the exact extent of deaths due to malnutrition alone. According to the information available from the Office of the Registrar General of India, the percentage of deaths due to nutritional deficiencies was 0.83 per cent of total deaths in urban areas and 2.5 per cent in rural areas for the year 1982.

Specific programme to improve the nutrition and health status of the population launched by the Union Government and the State Governments are as under:—

1. Prophylaxis programme against blindness due to Vitamin-A deficiency.

2. Prophylaxis programme to prevent nutritional anaemia in mothers and children.

3. Goitre Control Programme.

4. Integrated Child Development Service Scheme.

5. Special Nutrition Programme.

6. Balwadi Nutrition Programme.

7. Mid-day meal programme.